The Ehlers e-Newsletter

Visit our website at <http://www.house.gov/ehlers>
Tuesday, January 20, 2004

News from Congressman Ehlers …
PRESIDENT BUSH TO ADDRESS CONGRESS ON STATE OF THE UNION –
President George W. Bush will address a joint session of Congress tonight to deliver the annual State of the Union message. Following the speech, Congressman Ehlers will post his response on his website, <http://www.house.gov/ehlers>.

EHLERS: CAPTURE OF HUSSEIN A 'MAJOR TURNING POINT' – On Dec. 14, after American forces captured former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, Congressman Ehlers released the following statement: "I am very pleased to hear the news that Saddam Hussein has been captured. Hopefully, this will lead to more stability for the people of Iraq and to less terrorism directed both against them and against our troops stationed in Iraq."
For Congressman Ehlers' complete statement, please visit our website:
<http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/121403SaddamCaptured.html>

EHLERS: PRESIDENT'S SPACE VISION 'INSPIRING' BUT 'PERILOUS' –
President George W. Bush's vision of returning human beings to the moon and possibly traveling to Mars is an inspirational goal, Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers agrees, but it is a vision that comes with peril and a huge price tag.
For Congressman Ehlers' complete statement, please visit our website:
<http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/011404SpaceReax.html>

GR AREA TO GET NEARLY $3.5M TO FIGHT HOMELESSNESS – Eight Grand Rapids-area organizations will receive nearly $3.5 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to combat homelessness in West Michigan, Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers announced.
For more information, please read the press release on our website:
<http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/011504HUDgrants.html>

WALKER FIRE DEPARTMENT TO RECEIVE $53,055 FEDERAL GRANT –
Fire safety education programs run by the Walker Fire Department will receive a $53,055 boost thanks to a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers announced.
For more information, please read the press release on our website:
<http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/121203WalkerFDGrant.html>

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2004
On Monday, the House is not in session, in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day federal holiday.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2004

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 12 noon for legislative business. Last vote expected: Early Afternoon. Quorum will be called for shortly after the House convenes. The House will reconvene at 9 p.m. in joint session with the Senate for the purpose of receiving a State of the Union Address from the President of the United States.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2004
On Wednesday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes expected: Early Afternoon.
Suspensions (4 Bills):
(Bills on suspension are generally considered non-controversial and have reduced debate time, but require a two-thirds majority vote to be passed.)

1) **H.Res. XXXX - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the benefits of mentoring**: (1) praises those individuals who have already given their time to mentor a child; and (2) supports efforts to recruit more mentors in the states.
2) **H.Res. XXXX - Honoring the contributions of Catholic schools**.
3) **H.R. 970 - Training for Realtime Writers Act of 2003**: directs the Secretary of Labor to make competitive grants to eligible entities to promote training and placement of individuals, including individuals who have completed a court reporting training program, as real-time writers to meet requirements for closed captioning in video programming. Sets forth priorities to be given in the award of such grants. Limits grants to a two-year period and a maximum amount of $1.5 million.
4) **H.Res. XXXX - Commending the Jet Propulsion Lab for the successful landing of the Mars Space Probe.**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2004 AND THE BALANCE OF THE WEEK
On Thursday and Friday, no votes are expected in the House.

Historical Tidbits
On Jan. 19 …
1944 - The U.S. federal government relinquished control of the nation's railroads after the settlement of a wage dispute.
1949 - The salary of the President of the United States was increased from $75,000 to $100,000 with an additional $50,000 expense allowance for each year in office.
1955 - U.S. President Eisenhower allowed a filmed news conference to be used on television (and in movie newsreels) for the first time.
1981 - The U.S. and Iran signed an agreement paving the way for the release of 52 Americans held hostage for more than 14 months and for arrangements to unfreeze Iranian assets and to resolve all claims against Iran.
1996 - U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was subpoenaed to appear before a federal grand jury. The investigation was concerning the discovery of billing records related to the Whitewater real estate investment venture.

On Jan. 20 …
1801 - John Marshall was appointed chief justice of the United States.

1887 - The U.S. Senate approved an agreement to lease Pearl Harbor in Hawaii as a naval base.

1937 - Franklin Delano Roosevelt became the first U.S. President to be inaugurated on January 20th. The 20th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution officially set the date for the swearing in of the President and Vice President.

1981 - Iran released 52 Americans that had been held hostage for 444 days. The hostages were flown to Algeria and then to a U.S. base in Wiesbaden, West Germany. The release occurred minutes after the U.S. presidency had passed from Jimmy Carter to Ronald Reagan.

1986 - The U.S. observed the first federal holiday in honor of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

On Jan. 21 …

1977 - U.S. President Carter pardoned almost all Vietnam War draft evaders.

1997 - Newt Gingrich was fined as the U.S. House of Representatvies voted for first time in history to discipline its leader for ethical misconduct.

1998 - A former White House intern said on tape that she had an affair with U.S. President Clinton.

2003 - It was announced by the U.S. Census Bureau that estimates showed that the Hispanic population had passed the black population for the first time.

On Jan. 22 …

1879 - James Shields began a term as a U.S. Senator from Missouri. He had previously served Illinois and Minnesota. He was the first Senator to serve three states.

1917 - U.S. President Wilson pleaded for an end to war in Europe, calling for "peace without victory." America entered the war the following April.

1973 - The U.S. Supreme Court struck down state laws that had been restricting abortions during the first six months of pregnancy. The case (Roe vs. Wade) legalized abortion.

1997 - The U.S. Senate confirmed Madeleine Albright as the first female secretary of state.

On Jan. 23 …

1845 - The U.S. Congress decided all national elections would be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

1907 - Charles Curtis, of Kansas, began serving in the United States Senate. He was the first American Indian to become a U.S. Senator. He resigned in March of 1929 to become U.S. President Herbert Hoover's Vice President.

1964 - Ratification of the 24th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was completed. This amendment eliminated the poll tax in federal elections.

1973 - U.S. President Nixon announced that an accord had been reached to end the Vietnam War.

(Information from http://www.on-this-day.com)

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